



**HELP  
ONE CHILD**

# Dividends

Mission to Children at Risk July 2006

Issue 56

1-888-KID-HOPE

www.HelpOneChild.org

## Mother's Day Brunch Celebrates Foster and Adoptive Moms

One adoptive mom wears a pendant that came with the saying, "You weren't born of my flesh, but you were born of my heart."

That kind of commitment is what Help One Child honored at the first-ever Mother's Day Brunch on May 13th at The River Church Community.

Mothers enjoyed a delicious brunch of frittatas and fruit while listening to the inspiring stories of fost-adopt mother Anita and former foster youth Risha.

Each woman was presented with a lavender rose and commemorative bookmark and, during the table top discussions, and authored their own list of the "10 Joys of Being a Foster or Adoptive Mom" and "10 Things I Want My Child to Know."

Along with the joy of providing love and stability for children with a tough start in life, there are also unique challenges. Longtime foster parent Nolberta says she felt compelled to take a 450-mile journey to help a foster child say a final good-bye to a mother in prison who lost parental rights. Visibly moved by the memory, Nolberta says she draws strength to help children from God and the emotional and spiritual support of Help One Child.

Fost-adopt mom Anne also found the event encouraging. "It was an amazing morning. The women were beautiful, the food was great and the speakers were inspiring," she says.



**Adoptive moms Dorothy and Mary get to know each other and share stories over the Mother's Day Brunch.**

### Top 10 Joys of Being a Foster or Adoptive Mom...

1. I have children more beautiful than if they had come from me.
2. Answering God's call to care for orphans.
3. My heart has stretched.
4. Being able to show a child what it is like to be loved.
5. Hearing my foster child call me "Mommy."
6. Knowing that I am providing a home they would not otherwise have.
7. I have learned how hard I can fight for something I believe in.
8. Seeing the healthy bonds the girls are making and their growing skills.
9. Knowing my daughter is thrilled to see me when she awakes at 3 AM with a big smile on her face.
10. Life is never boring!

## Mother and Daughter Team Up

Even as a child, Tina Lungaro says her daughter Michelle would pray for children who were less fortunate. That spirit continued into her teen years when a Help One Child speaker came to Holy Family Parish two years ago.

“Michelle was very impressed and wanted to participate—even wanted us to adopt,” says Tina.

So mom and daughter decided to get involved together. They regularly team up to take care of children whose parents attend CPR/1st Aid and other seminars.

“It’s nice to see foster parents have such support and we’re glad to help,” Tina says.



Emma and Mackenzie decorate picture frames for an art project at the Easter Eggstravaganza.

## Eggstravaganza Celebrates Easter

In partnership with Union Presbyterian Church, Help One Child held the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on April 15th.

Families from Help One Child’s network joined families from the church making springtime art projects, beading bracelets and decorating picture frames.

Along with arts and crafts the children enjoyed a puppet show telling the Resurrection Story and an Easter Egg hunt indoors to avoid the cloudy weather.

A dozen high school students from Valley Christian High School assisted with the activities as community service.

The morning ended with door prizes for the families and too much candy!

## July 12-19

### Neurofeedback Trainer

## Peter Van Deusen Teaches Weeklong Home Training Course

Peter Van Deusen of The Learning Curve, Inc. presents a series of four-hour workshops for people interested in varying levels of training, from home use to practitioner level, to learn how to administer neurofeedback.

Van Deusen trains therapists, parents and agency workers to understand and implement neurofeedback brain-training (EEG biofeedback) as a successful method of improving behaviors, and reducing or eliminating the use of psychotropic medications for a number of psychological disorders.

Prohibitive practitioner costs make this therapy out of reach for many families. Dr. Patrick Clyne, a Valley Medical pediatrician serving foster youth, has suggested that neurofeedback may be a helpful therapy if it can be administered consistently and frequently which is possible when parents are trained to do it at home.

Neurofeedback is a learning strategy that allows people to alter their brain waves. It has become a leading treatment of ADHD, OCD and panic attacks. It is also used to treat sleep disorders and migraines in adults.

For more information or for a free demonstration, call Mark Morris at 650-917-1210. To register go to [www.brain-trainer.com](http://www.brain-trainer.com). A laptop or desktop that runs Windows is highly recommended for these courses.

Workshop Title	Days	Cost
Level 1: Basics of Brain Training	July 12	\$ 195
Level 2: Assessment and Training Planning	July 13 & 14	\$ 375
Getting the Most from Bio-Explorer	July 15 & 16	\$ 375
Trainer’s Practicum	July 17, 18 & 19	\$ 550

## Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to Julie Gannaway, Help One Child’s graphic designer and IT guru. Julie weds Peter Handel, her best friend and true love, on July 30, 2006. Blessings and best wishes from your friends at Help One Child!



# Recruiting Update: First Ambassador Churches Spring To Life



Director of Community Development Beth Fraker presents the Ambassador Program.

Help One Child launched a new church partnership strategy in 2006 and a dozen churches have expressed interest in bringing the Ambassador Program to their church community this year, creating Help One Child “satellite sites.”

In May, Help One Child Director of Community Development Beth Fraker facilitated the first three ministry launches at WestGate Church, San Jose; South Valley Christian Church, San Jose; and St. Mary Parish, Gilroy, with more slotted to take off in the coming months.

Beth explains that the impetus to create this program was to conveniently deploy services and programs from within a church congregation and to leverage already existing relational networks found in churches.

“For example, if you decide to foster a child, there will be people from within your own church, people you see on a regular basis, prepared and ready to baby-sit, pray for you and provide other kinds of support,” Beth says.

Churches interested in establishing an urban ministry to foster and adoptive children receive a proven program model as well as the resources, materials and training required to do so. While positioned as a “ministry in a box,” the Ambassador Program takes a unique shape at each congregation. Here is a look at how ministry teams are tailoring the program to fit the unique needs of their church’s foster and adoptive families.

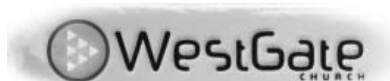


The St. Mary Parish ministry team believes that by lifting up the families who are already involved, others will be inspired to follow suit. So their approach was to highlight an adoptive parish family in the weekly bulletin and ask other foster parents to address the congregation.

The weekly bulletin reaches approximately 1,500 people and is their church’s primary communication vehicle. This activity generated interest from both prospective foster parents and raised volunteers for current foster families.

St. Mary’s will work closely with Help One Child to support the county’s child specific recruiting efforts in their area.

The Ambassador Program has created more contacts that can bridge the Spanish and English-speaking communities and help fill the need for more Spanish-speaking foster homes in South County.



WestGate Church’s Children’s Ministry Pastor Joel King and his wife Lyn, who have adopted all four of their children from foster care, exemplify the level of commitment that many WestGate families have already demonstrated.

From adoptive parents to potential foster parents to people who professionally work on behalf of children such as a Home Economics teacher, neonatal nurse, and an attorney with the DA’s office, people came out of the woodwork to form a diverse team of support at the church.

Another exciting aspect of the ministry is the proximity to the S.T.A.R. group home, where teens in foster care are in need of mentors. Two young women stepped forward right away to fill those roles. The connection to S.T.A.R. will provide service opportunities in the future for church members.



Foster parents Don and Robyn Dequine--with a mission to care for infants in foster care--have been at the forefront of foster care ministry at SVCC for the last four and half years. Longtime Help One Child employee and foster parent, Mary Johnson, has also advocated to raise awareness of the needs of foster children. Thus, the May 17th Ambassador Program launch at SVCC was the culmination of a dream and the formalization of a foster care ministry in partnership with Help One Child.

The Dequines’ example has raised up many other foster families and the church has even hosted the county’s PRIDE trainings for pre-licensed foster parents. With Help One Child matching the new volunteers to assist families, the ministry is poised to grow and take off like it always has--through word of mouth, which so far has motivated five new families to foster parent with more to follow.

# In Memoriam

Help One Child appreciates the many donations made to honor mothers and fathers on their special day. We would like to especially recognize the parents who are no longer living:

Alice Anderson	Susanne Morris
David Brown	Antonio C. Munoz
Jamie Burks	Teresa H. Munoz
Ephraim Eley	Helen Nickless
Arleather Eley	Elaine Pogue
Enrique Ferreira	Connie Saylor
Laura Hathaway	Earl Schnick
Lillyan Mabe	Anita Louise Vanni

# Thanks

Special thanks to the American Sewing Guild, Mid-Penninsula Neighborhood Group, who donated the colorful handmade pillowcases for foster children. What a great idea!

# HOC Needs Computer Monitors

If you have 2-5 year old computer monitors, 17 inch or larger and in good working condition, we'd love to take them off your hands! Call 650-917-1210.

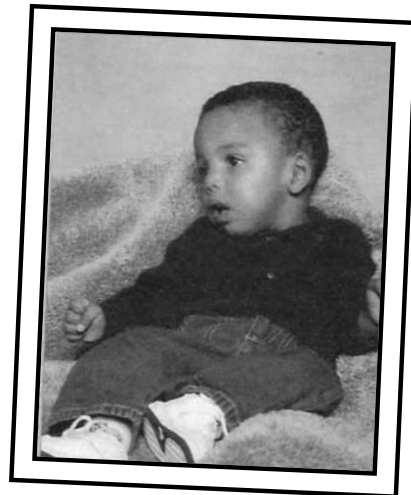
# Jordan Damian Mullings Agaliotis

Jordan was the beloved son of Carol and David Agaliotis. He was born March 16, 2002 with a rare brain disorder called anencephaly.

The doctor told Carol that Jordan would not survive his first year. But the love Carol and her family showered on him helped him live past his fourth birthday.

"I watched Carol and Jordan together," Help One Child staff member Judy Holmes says. "She was always hugging and kissing him. He was her treasure."

Jordan returned to his Heavenly Father peacefully in the arms of his mother on April 20, 2006.



# Keep Up To Date

Visit [www.helponechild.org](http://www.helponechild.org) for news about upcoming orientations at new Ambassador Churches this Fall!

# Upcoming events

## Orientations & CPR / 1st Aid

	Orientations		CPR & First Aid
	7 PM Wednesday	9 AM Saturday	8:30 AM Saturday
July	19	22	22
August	16	19	19
September	20	23	23
October	18	21	21
November	15	18	18

Orientations 2 hours • CPR & First Aid 5 hours  
Call for Childcare: 650-917-1210

## Parent Child Connection

The parent support group meets the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Childcare by request.

## July 12-19

Neurofeedback Training Workshops

## August 20-25

Camp Connection @ Mt. Cross

## October 14

Dr. Steven Gray  
A Parenting Seminar @  
Help One Child's Offices

Dr. Gray's primary specialization is transforming unmotivated/listless students into academic achievers--improving both GPA and self-esteem in the process.

Dr. Gray's website is:  
[www.grayneuro.com](http://www.grayneuro.com)



Dr. Gray's suggestions are not always initially welcomed by youth. Duct tape is, alas, not always helpful.